

DESCRIPTIVE MATTER
RELATIVE TO
WINDOW BLINDS

BY TIDMARSH & SONS

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DESCRIPTIVE MATTER RELATIVE TO WINDOW BLINDS

*For the use of
The Architectural Profession
etc., etc.*



TIDMARSH & SONS
TRANSENNA WORKS
LAYCOCK STREET, ISLINGTON
LONDON, N.1

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FOREWORD

In the course of about 100 years of Trading we have stored up knowledge, gained in experience, in the Design and Manufacture of Window Blinds of all descriptions, both for interior and exterior use.

Therefore, we decided to publish this small work in the hope, firstly, that it may be found of assistance to the architectural profession and others; and secondly, that it may help to attain a higher standard of artistic decoration in window furnishings.

All types of Blinds are described and illustrated—there are a few which we have purposely omitted—but all the most popular and modern are included.

TIDMARSH & SONS

ISLINGTON,
LONDON, N.1



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PREFACE

THE Firm of Tidmarsh & Sons was founded by the late Charles Tidmarsh in Islington, London, in the year 1828, so that the Firm is able to place about 100 years' experience at the disposal of its Patrons. During that time, Tidmarsh & Sons have fitted many hundreds of thousands of Blinds in numerous important Buildings in London, various Provincial Towns and many places abroad. For many years Tidmarsh & Sons were the sole appointed Contractors to H.M. Office of Works, and there is scarcely an important Public Building in London to which they have not supplied Window Blinds ; the Royal Palaces, the various Public Museums, Art and Picture Galleries, the large important Government Offices in London and Provinces, as well as all sorts and conditions of privately owned Houses, from Mansions of the highest rank to more modest dwellings and Shops. They have a unique experience in School Blinds, having been the Contractors to the London County Council for many years.

The present Proprietors of the Firm are direct lineal descendants of the original Founder, of the third and fourth generation. Each one is skilled and trained in his special capacity, and gives personal attention to details and management all through. The business of Tidmarsh & Sons is carried on in its own modern Freehold Premises specially built for the Business in the years 1914/15, and equipped with modern up-to-date machinery. The Firm pride themselves in being Manufacturers throughout, not Factors. It may quite fairly be stated that practically all the parts of every Blind are manufactured on the Premises. The Premises and Departments include Sawing, Moulding and Planing Mills, Carpentry and Joinery, Smiths work, Tin working, Oxy-Acetylene Welding and Brazing, Spring-making, Painting, Writing, Decorating and Gilding, French Polishing, Cutting Out and Planning, Needle Work, Assembling and various other branches of the trade.

The founder of the Firm in the year 1828, held, as a first necessity, excellency of quality and design, economic cost of production following. This spirit has been, and still is the spirit of the Firm. The production of an article, perfect in design and workmanship, at a reasonable cost, and that will give satisfaction to their friends, is their aim.

The question of how to Furnish Windows, either Inside or Outside, to exclude ordinary daylight, to soften the hot and brilliant summer sun or temper the rays, how to darken windows at night, and in the early morning for light sleepers, to moderate the light in Picture Galleries, large Halls, Billiard Rooms, etc., to furnish Balconies, Verandahs, Summer Houses, Sports Pavilions, Business Premises and Dwelling Houses, is not always an easy one, and the Firm hope that the perusal of this work may frequently assist the busy professional man in his task.

The fact is fully realized, with Blinds, as with every other article of furniture or building equipment, that there are many inferior qualities being offered, frequently at exceedingly low prices ; and no attempt whatever is made to compete with these low-class articles. All our Blinds are of a thoroughly good commercial quality, made throughout from the very best materials of their respective classes and descriptions. Only skilled labour is employed ; the manufacture and assembling being done under the personal and careful supervision of the Principals, thus guaranteeing a really well-made, substantial and sound article, of excellent wearing qualities, and thoroughly good value for money.

In compiling this work it is quite evident that it is not by any means complete or all embracing. So varied are the conditions for which Blinds are required that it would be impossible to issue an absolutely exhaustive Book on the Subject. Most, if not all, of the everyday articles are mentioned, and for any other requirements the Principals of the Firm hold themselves at the disposal of their clients personally to advise and discuss requirements that may arise from time to time.

Most of our Blinds have special features and appliances ; for a number of these we have considered it desirable to take out a " Royal Letters Patent," but with others it has not been done but almost all of our Blinds have some special feature that make them unique.

Whilst making every endeavour to adhere to the exact

detail of the annexed specifications for every order, it will readily be appreciated that occasionally exigencies will arise which make it necessary slightly to depart from some of the detail, but it is guaranteed that when on these rare occasions it does happen, the parts substituted will in no way be inferior to those specified.

In this work no mention is made of prices, except occasional references as comparisons, prices have been deliberately avoided ; the Firm, however, publish a comprehensive Price List and are always prepared to submit estimates on receipt of particulars and to discuss such matters with their clients.

CHAPTER I

INSIDE ROLLER BLINDS

INSIDE Roller Blinds are used for many purposes. There is the ordinary Domestic Blind used in Private Houses. There are Blinds for Inside Shop Windows, and such Buildings as Factories, Museums, etc. where the windows are large. There are various horizontal Lights or sloping Roof Lights, and there are the small windows such as are found in Ships Cabins, Motor Cars, and other similar conditions. The make of Roller and kind of Cloth and all the various articles used, necessarily vary a great deal in accordance with the particular requirements. We lay ourselves open to supply all the different kinds of Blinds which are needed for the varying circumstances.

With regard to the kind of Roller which it is desirable to use, so much depends upon the circumstances, and also upon the quality of the work desired. For Domestic work there is nothing to rival the Best English Tin Barrel Spring Roller, the manufacture and construction of which is described in the separate article on Spring Rollers. For vertical windows it is customary to use a Cap and Rack Action Spring Roller (Fig. 1).

For Mental



Fig. 1

Hospitals the Firm construct a special Cap and Rack worked with a Ring and Hook, and thus do away with Lines entirely. For very large windows and for conditions



Fig. 2

ally used (Fig. 2), and there are circumstances under which

it is desired to use a Self-Acting Spring Roller without any side action at all (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

The diameter of the Spring Roller

is necessarily determined partly by the width, partly by the length of the draw of Cloth, and partly by the nature of the material to be used, but it is only under exceptional conditions that this diameter should be reduced below $1\frac{3}{4}$ ins. For all ordinary domestic Blinds $1\frac{3}{4}$ ins. for the smaller Blinds, 2 ins. diameter for the larger, with the occasional use of $2\frac{1}{4}$ ins. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter, is all that is required, but as far as possible it is generally desirable to determine the diameter in consultation with the practical Blind Maker, as it is a highly technical matter requiring a very intimate, detailed knowledge of the Trade.

There is a cheaper kind of Spring Roller with a Wood Case, originally of American manufacture (Fig. 4), and



Fig. 4

the American Roller, of its kind, perhaps still maintains pre-eminence, although a great many are now made in the British Isles. They are quite satisfactory for cheap use, but are not to be recommended for good class work. They work with a centre Line only. When a good class article is required to work with a centre Line only, on the same principle as the Wood Spring Roller, we then use Tidmarsh's Patent Ratchet Action illustrated in Chapter V (Figs. 6 and 7).

Another kind of Roller which is used a great deal, where it is desired to keep the cost down, is the Sheath End Wood Single Cord Roller (Fig. 5).

For this we mostly use a Wooden Roller



Fig. 5

$1\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter with a machine made Brass Domed Sheath End $2\frac{1}{4}$ ins. in diameter, but where this kind of Roller is required for large Blinds over 5 ft. in width,



Fig. 6

we almost invariably supply a Tin Barrel Roller (Fig. 6) the Barrel being

the same as that used for making the English Spring Roller ; large Brass Sheath Ends are used for this purpose, varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. to 5 ins. in diameter, or even larger if required. By adopting this method, very large spaces may be covered.

There is also the old time Rack Pulley Roller with the endless Cord which is occasionally required, but is almost out of date.

For Inside Shop Window Blinds and very large windows, in Factories, Warehouses, Public Museums, and suchlike, practically the same remarks that have been made with regard to domestic Blinds, will apply. For good class work, English Spring Rollers either with a Cap and Rack Action, with the Sheath End Action, or with our Patent Ratchet, should be used, and occasionally Self-Acting Springs are required ; but where expense is an object the ordinary Tin Barrel Sheath End Roller is generally somewhat cheaper.

For skylights, and all such horizontal or semi-horizontal lights in Museums, Public Buildings, large Halls, Shops, Warehouses, and occasionally in Private Houses, it is almost without exception desirable to use Self-Acting Spring Rollers. They are made to work with either one or two Lines, as the circumstances may dictate, very largely determined by the width of the Blind. These Lines pass through Pulleys, and can be drawn to almost any position. Generally it is found desirable to run these Blinds on Copper Wires so as to support them, one Copper Wire being strained near each end of each Blind, the Blind resting on these Wires.

For small Blinds such as are required in the Saloons and Cabins of Ships, Motor Cars, etc., a small Brass Barrel, not more than 1 in. diameter, is used, sometimes with a Cap and Rack Action, and at other times with Tidmarsh's Patent

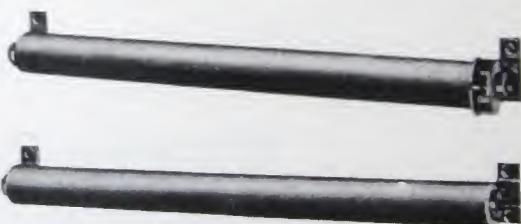


Fig. 7

Ratchet, Patent No. 207441 (Fig. 7), the fittings, such as the Brackets, Roller Ends, etc., almost without exception being Nickel Plated ; generally speaking these Blinds are run on side cords to keep them in position. A Blind similarly constructed to this is very frequently found useful for the glass part of the Door of a Shop.

With regard to Cloth. There is a very large and varied selection, which is constantly altering from time to time. For domestic purposes either one of the soft Linen or half Linen materials, most frequently a Cream colour, and sometimes Green or other colours of which there is a large selection, which can be chosen from patterns, are the Cloths which are generally used ; but there is an infinite variety, and it is exceedingly difficult to specify more than this in a general article. For Shop Windows, large Halls, and Museums, etc., similar Cloths are used, as also for skylights. Some of the glazed Cloths are manufactured as wide as 9 ft., but for skylights it is generally desirable to join several narrow widths in order to obtain strength ; it is generally considered that these Blinds roll and work better when there are several lengths joined together for skylights, but not for other purposes. For Ships' Saloons, Cabins, Motor Cars, etc., there is an infinite variety of materials, varying from cheap Cottons to very expensive Brocades, Silks, etc., which can be selected from a large variety of patterns of all colours.

The Cloths for Roller Blinds should be always carefully squared up by competent men with large experience, and excepting in occasional rare circumstances, where for different reasons it is not desirable or practicable, they should be made up with hems at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide.

In mounting the Cloths to the Rollers, the Cloths are carefully wrapped round the Rollers and sewn on to themselves. In this way the Blind is made to hang square,

the Roller is covered, and the Blind therefore works more efficiently and accurately. Egg-shaped Bottom Sticks are generally used, but for large Blinds a round, or other shape, Bottom Stick is sometimes desirable ; all ordinary Blinds are finished in the centre with a Line



Fig. 8

attached to the Bottom Stick by a Brass Acorn Knot Holder, at the end of which is suspended an Ivory Acorn or other suitable finish (see Fig. 8).

For Best English Spring Roller Blinds a Line and Fitting is attached to the side when the ordinary Cap and Rack Action is used. For Sheath End Single Cord Action Rollers a high quality Flax Line is used for the side Action, with a Young's Cleat to which to fasten it. Brackets, either of Cast Brass or Iron, as may be dictated by the conditions and whichever may be suitable for the particular kind of Blind, fixed on the face or to the head, are supplied to each Blind. Various Laces and other Trimmings can be supplied, and most Blinds for domestic purposes should be trimmed with Lace or whatever else may be desired. The patterns may be selected from a large variety either from illustrations or from the actual Laces themselves.

There is another purpose for which inside Roller Blinds are frequently required, and that is in connection with Schools, Hospitals, and various other Buildings where scientific work is done, so as to make rooms dark. Practically all modern day schools are requiring rooms darkened for lantern work, and in most Hospitals rooms are required to be dark for X-ray work, etc.

For darkening purposes for lantern work for schools, the requirements are not so strict. It is customary to use a Black Cloth, generally on Self-Acting Spring Roller, the Blind either being fixed to the bottom to pull up, or sometimes fixed at the top to draw down, and where a considerable degree of density is required, it is customary to put a wide Casing round the window, which Casing can generally be attached to the walls of the room (Fig. 9).

For X-ray work and other scientific purposes, a greater degree of density is generally required. In that case usually a wide frame has to be doubled, and must be of a considerable depth, and the Cloth must be of a high quality so as to be absolutely light proof (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10

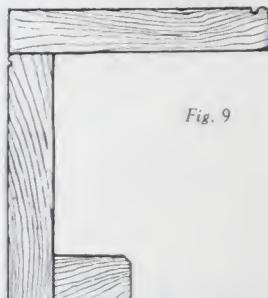


Fig. 9

In constructing these Blinds, it is very customary to work them on the principle that the Line is attached at one corner (Fig. 11) of the Blind, whether it be top or bottom, according as the Blind fixes at the top or the bottom, passes along the bottom stick over a Pulley, and then to any desired point over Pulleys, so that the pull is from both ends of the bottom stick. Usually this class of Blind requires very careful designing, and arranging, and it is usually better for the Blind Manufacturer to have a voice in the actual designing of the detail of construction.



Fig. 11

CHAPTER II

VENETIAN BLINDS

ALTHOUGH Venetian Blinds are not used nearly so much as formerly, there are certain conditions for which they are most admirably adapted, and under some circumstances, and for certain styles of architecture, there is nothing to equal them. Undoubtedly they are the best type to adopt to keep rooms cool when there is a sunny aspect ; there is very little in the working to get out of order, and if out of order, they can be easily repaired by any ordinary jobbing man or by the domestic staff of any house ; the Blind can be arranged so as to keep off the sun, and yet not exclude the view entirely, the amount of light and air to be let into the room can be regulated to almost any desired degree ; also Venetian Blinds are undoubtedly more lasting and permanent in wear than any other window covering.

For these and other reasons, they are especially adapted for Export Work, and particularly because they can be made equally well in Hardwoods, such as Teak. For hot climates, Venetian Blinds made in Teak, and especially when they run in grooves fitted to the outsides of the windows, are ideal, and can be recommended with confidence.

Ordinary Venetian Blinds for Domestic Work can be made in varying qualities. For the best qualities it is customary to use choicest dry Canadian Yellow Bright Pine for the Laths

(Fig. 1), which
wood is ob-
viously very

Fig. 1

expensive. For the lower qualities, a harder and less expensive wood is generally used.

For the Tapes of the best quality, it is not possible to do better than use Carr's best Woven Ladder Tapes (Stamped quality) (Fig. 2). Care should be taken that a suitable

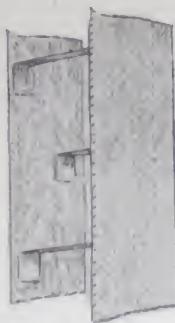


Fig. 2

lap is given, so that the Laths are sufficiently close together, and yet give freedom in working. The colour mostly used for the Tapes is what is known as Duck (half bleached), or Brown (unbleached). Buff, Green or White Tapes can be used. For the lower quality Blinds, it is not customary to use such a high quality Tape. Similarly for the Lines. Solid Flax Lines of a suitable weight,

according to the size of the Blind, give the most satisfaction in wear.

For the Pulleys, Tidmarsh's Patent Pulley in a Metal Frame, with Lignum Vitæ Pulleys are recom-



Fig. 4

mended (Fig. 3), and for the Tape or Turning Rollers, Tidmarsh's Patent Tape Roller with Bronze Metal Ends (Fig. 4).

Many people prefer to have Check Actions supplied to Venetian Blinds so that by pulling the side Line the Blind can be made to stop at any height (Fig. 5). These are not generally highly recommended by practical Blind Makers, although there are conditions where they are often very desirable.

There is always

the tendency
for rather

more intricate working when these are adopted, and also there is a tendency to cut the Lines. Generally speaking it is found better to supply a Young's Holdfast Cleat (Fig. 6), or a pair of Cleat Hooks, to which to fasten the Lines. Venetian Blinds can be painted to any selected colours. To the best quality it is customary to give three coats of paint, and the second quality

two coats only, and it is generally found most satisfactory to finish with a small amount of Varnish in the colour,

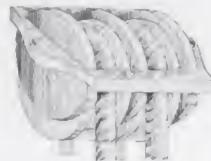


Fig. 3

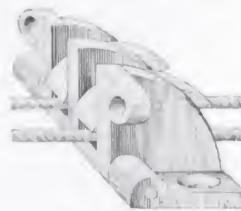


Fig. 5

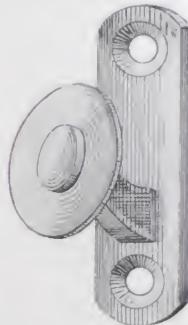


Fig. 6

giving an eggshell gloss. With Green Blinds, and also with some other colours, it is customary to give a bright Varnish finish. Many Venetian Blinds are made from the wood in the natural colour, perhaps slightly stained, or even stained a darker colour, when this is required for the best quality, the Blinds are finished with two coats of Varnish, and for the lower quality one coat.

Venetian Blinds, to be a success, should be of the best make throughout, made, painted, and assembled by highly experienced men who have had a large practice in dealing with the particular kind of Blind.

CHAPTER III

CORTINA OR CURTAIN BLINDS

IN the Architecture of to-day many windows are so constructed that they do not adapt themselves to Blinds, as ordinarily understood, for inside treatment; and further, the taste of the day has a tendency to prefer an arrangement of Curtains to many windows rather than ordinary Inside Window Blinds.

The methods of treatment of such Windows vary immensely, and it is almost impracticable to detail any very definite and settled plans.

1st. With regard to fittings and fixtures for such arrangements of Curtains, there are many methods. For certain conditions the ordinary well-known heavy Brass or Wood Cornice Poles with Ends and Rings and Brass Brackets, are best suited, the selection of wood being to harmonise with the general furnishings and character of the room, such as Oak, Mahogany, Walnut; White Enamel, Brass, etc. (Fig. 1); at other times small Brass, Bronzed or Aluminium Rods are best, of about $\frac{3}{8}$ in., $\frac{1}{2}$ in., or $\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter, either with holders from which the Rods are easily lifted out for cleaning and renewing, or other arrangements as may be best suited to the particular conditions (Fig. 2)



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Such Rods can be fitted with Pulley arrangements (Fig. 3). Again there are quite a large variety of flat and other sections of Brass and other Metal Rods with Patent arrangements (Fig. 4), to draw the Curtains, all good in their way, very similar to one another, but each having its own particular advantages.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

the ones most frequently favoured. There are silks, artificial silks, wool mixtures, and heavier Cloths such as reps, etc., and various striped Cloths, either in self colours or in stripes of various shades. Nearly all the better quality Cloths are sold as unfadable, which is a very important matter for Curtains. The variety of colours and shades is so great that every taste can be met and every decoration easily suited.

3rd. With regard to methods of making up. Ample fulness must be provided, not less than from one-third to half as much again as the width of the window to be covered. There is sometimes a little difficulty in this matter because usually these Cloths are only manufactured in one width (50 ins. wide or thereabouts) and consequently some ingenuity is required on the part of the Blind Maker to avoid, on the one hand, waste, and on the other, to give a correct and even fulness all through the room or house. Each Curtain must be headed up to a suitable tape, which must be a correct distance longer than the width of the window to be covered, and carefully and evenly gathered up to the width, with suitable Rings or Hooks sewn on at correct distances. Whether the top half of the window should be covered with a separate set of Curtains from the bottom half, whether the Curtains should be in singles or pairs, and how the favourite five-light bay, or straight, windows should be divided up, and all such details, are all so very problematical, that it is hardly possible to give any definite rules. The only method of dealing with such questions is to consult the practical Blind Maker, although guidance can often be obtained from the illustrations in the Blind Manufacturers' Catalogue.

Over the window head it is very usual to construct a Pelmet fixed on to a Curtain board so as to cover up the whole of the top headings. This Pelmet being made from the same material as the Curtains and generally lined and stiffened with buckram (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5

CHAPTER IV

FESTOON BLINDS

FESTOON Blinds are suitable for use in varying conditions. For circular windows, they are most excellent, as they can be

made to the exact sweep of the window. They are very decorative in appearance, and when made in the best manner with high quality Cloths, give a most effective furnishing finish. They are also used somewhat largely for high-class inside Shop Blinds, particularly where there is a large proportion of circular window to deal with.

This class of Blind can be made up at almost any cost. Inexpensive material can be used, the quantity of fabric reduced to skimpy proportions, and the labour kept down to low costs. It is, however, very doubtful whether it

is wise to use these Blinds under such conditions. They should either be thoroughly well made, or ruled out altogether.

The fabric to be used is an important consideration. It is of the first importance to use a very soft and pliable material which, being light in weight, naturally drapes in soft pleasant folds. The frailest Silks and Silk mixtures make ideal Cloths, as also do fine Mercerised Cotton Cloths, and others that are mixed with wool. Cream is the most usual shade, but there is an infinite variety of fadeless colours, from which these Blinds can be made.

The distance between the Festoons or rows of gathers, is a matter that is determined according to the size of the



Fig. 1

Blind, and the selection of the Cloth that is used, but for all ordinary domestic Blinds about 9 ins. to 12 ins. apart is the best distance. Occasionally in small Blinds they are less, but for extra wide Blinds in Shops and other exceptional conditions they may be put further apart. Each row of gathers has to be sewn, with care, to strong, yet supple Tapes, pleated at even distances to carefully marked gauges, so that the fulness of the Cloth is evenly distributed over the Blind (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

The Pulley Head should be of sufficient substance for strength without being heavy, and may be covered with the same Cloth, or made of Polished Hardwood, mounted with China Thimbles, secured by Copper



Fig. 3

Clips (Fig. 3). The pliable Cords, the same colour as the Cloth, pass through Bone Rings as near as may be the same shade as the Cloth. Thus each row of gathers has a Cord trailed down its own length (Fig. 2). The Cloth is secured to the Pulley Head with a Ruche of the same Cloth from which the Blinds are made, thus obtaining an elegant and unobtrusive finish.

At the bottom it is customary to finish these Blinds with a Metal Rod well painted, and then covered with the Cloth and secured to the Blind with Rings sewn to the gathers, the bottom of the Cloth being carefully scolloped to the same drapery as the Festoons naturally fall. It is customary to trim the bottom of the Blind with a Fringe. For the best work a high grade Silk Fringe is used, whilst for cheaper work a less expensive Fringe can be supplied, the Fringe always being the same colour as the Fabric.

CHAPTER V

SPRING ROLLERS

To make Spring Rollers with thorough satisfaction, many years training and experience are required, and very careful attention is required to the diameter and the length of the Spring Coils, the make and size of the Wire from which the Coils are wound, the diameter of the Barrel, and other such details.

English Steel Barrel Spring Rollers are made of all sizes varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to 5 ins. in diameter.

There appears to be a somewhat general impression that Spring Rollers are all made on the methods of mass-production, each diameter of one strength, so that any size diameter can be selected and made to do any particular work. This is quite contrary to the facts. Every Spring Roller is especially made by hand, after careful consideration of the work it has to do, the weight it has to carry, and texture of the Cloth, etc.

It should be understood that the construction of a Spring Roller is that the Spiral Spring is attached

at one end to
the Spindle,
which mostly
runs straight
through the



Fig. 1

Barrel, and at the other end it is attached to a wooden Block, which in its turn is attached to the Casing (Fig 1.).

Thus it will be appreciated that the Cloth being in its turn attached to the Casing of the Spring (Fig. 2) the drawing out of the Cloth turns the Roller round, and winds up the Spiral Spring ; so that the Spring must never be wound up tight



Fig. 2

similarly to a clock spring, as many people seem to think. A certain number of turns must be given to the Barrel before the Blind is fixed, the number of turns varying according to the conditions.

The Barrels of Spring Rollers are carefully made from



Fig.
3

Tinned Steel Plates by expert barrel makers, from $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to 5 ins. diameter (Fig. 3); the diameter of the Barrel, and therefore of the Spring Roller, varies according to conditions and circumstances, and the work the Roller is required to do.

The Spindles are made from best Iron or Mild Steel, whichever may be the most suited to the particular conditions, the ends of the Spindles being carefully squared.

The Spring Coils, of which there may be 1, 2, 3, or 4 in each Spring Roller, according to the work that it is required to perform, are wound in various lengths, diameters and gauges of wire, from Nos. 1 to 19, from the best Spring Wire suited for the particular conditions; the Blocks are made from Hardwood carefully turned by special machinery.

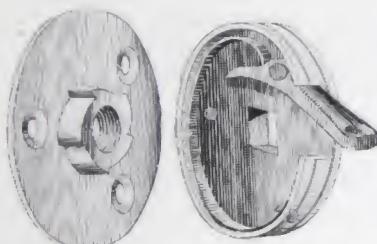


Fig. 4

The various supplementary parts, such as the Brass Caps and Racks (Fig. 4), Sheath Ends (where required), Collars, Washers, etc., should be all the best of their respective kinds.

From all the foregoing, it will very readily be

understood that in order to make Spring Rollers so that they will work efficiently and effectively, it is necessary to know how the measures are given, whether over the projecting Pins, or over the ends of the Roller, also to know the kind of Cloth to be used, the length of the draw of Cloth, and under what conditions the Rollers are required to be used.



Fig. 5

Rollers are almost invariably made with a Brass Cap and Rack Action (Fig. 5).

For all ordinary domestic work, that is, Inside Vertical Blinds, Spring

In the Blind Trade the want has often been felt of a substantial, high quality Spring Roller working on the well known American principle with the centre Line only, and with pawls in the ratchet (Fig. 6), so that the Blind can be pulled down by the centre Line, and made to stop in any position ; whilst to put it in work again, all that is necessary is to pull the centre Line lightly, the Spring is thus released and the Cloth rolls round it.



Fig. 6

This want is supplied by Tidmarsh's special Patent Ratchet Action made in every way similar to the Best English Tin Barrel Spring Roller, but with this special Patent Ratchet Action, of a substantial make, and greatly improved in constructional detail. All the parts are engine turned from solid Metal (Fig. 7), no stampings being used. These Patent Ratchet Actions can be supplied for all Spring Rollers from 1 in. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in diameter, and even to larger sizes when required.

Fig. 7

Occasionally Spring Rollers are made with a Sheath End Action. These are perhaps most frequently used for large Shop Window Blinds, where the window is closely dressed and there is every desire to have the Blind constructed in such a way that it is bound to come down easily. The

Action is, that the Line is pulled to draw the blind down, the Spring in the Roller rolls



Fig. 8

the Blind up as soon as the side Line is released ; no centre Line is required (Fig. 8).

The other Action Spring Roller mostly required is the Self-Acting Spring without any Cap and Rack Action, generally to work with a centre Line. This is the kind used for



Fig. 9

Skylights, Shop Blinds, and all similar conditions (Fig. 9).



Fig. 10

For Motor
Cars, Yachts
and other sim-
ilar purposes,
Spring Rollers
with Brass
Barrels and
plated Fittings
of about 1 in.

diameter, are supplied (Fig. 10).

The best English Spring Rollers must not be confused with the Wood Spring Rollers sold from stock sizes at low prices. When Wood Spring Rollers are required, these can be supplied (Fig. 11) but they are obviously a very inferior article

to the best English Tin Barrel Roller which we have described in the foregoing.



Fig. 11

CHAPTER VI

DWARF BLINDS

USUALLY the object of a Dwarf Blind is to break the view from the outside and yet not obstruct that from the inside ; although they are most frequently needed for this reason, that is when windows abutt on the street or any other similar conditions, they are also exceedingly useful for the purpose of identification and advertisement in Offices or Private Businesses, and in some cases they will add to the finish and decorative appearance of windows.

There are many kinds of Dwarf Blinds, each of them having its own advantages for the particular conditions.

Wire Blinds are made of fine Wire Gauze in wooden

Frames.

The standard wood is a high quality, well



Fig. 1

figured Mahogany, polished by hand; made in Oak, other Hardwood or Walnut. They are
an ordinary



Fig. 2

French but they can be Walnut, or any equally satisfactory material mostly made with straight top Rail



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

(Fig. 1), and generally speaking the woodwork of the Styles

and the Bottom Rail is made to correspond with the wood-work of the window to which they are fitted, the top Rail being from $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. to 2 ins. wide. Occasionally this top Rail is made either of straight or curved Brass Tube (Fig. 2), and sometimes it is made of a sweep or ramped wood (Fig. 3, 4, 5), or any other design that may be required, occasionally with a somewhat elaborate ornamental carving.

Occasionally Frames are made entirely from Brass or other Metal (Fig. 6), more especially for the doors of a Metal fronted shop and such similar conditions. In this way the Frames are kept very small and neat, and are made to accord with the rest of the Metal work ; when made thus they are necessarily very expensive.



Fig. 6

For most purposes a Steel Gauze Wire is used, the Wire being carefully painted ; but when Blinds are placed in positions against windows likely to

become heated with steam or where there is a considerable condensation, also when a large amount of expensive writing and ornament is put on, it is frequently desirable to use Copper Wire Gauze.

Where it is desirable to exclude all the view from the outside, Wire Blinds can, at an additional cost, be made translucent, the appearance then being similar to a thin sheet of horn or celluloid. When this process is adopted it rather alters the character of the Blind, and it is not one which we recommend for ordinary purposes.

Occasionally Blinds, similar in every way to the foregoing, are made from perforated zinc instead of Wire (Fig. 7).

Dwarf Blinds can be made in Glass when needed. Sometimes Leaded Glass is used, of more or less ornamental patterns and designs, according to the requirements ; at other times fancy rolled, figured plate Glass, Muranese, or other such Glasses are used, the Frames being made in Polished Hardwood as required. Occasionally Ground Glass only is used. Most of these

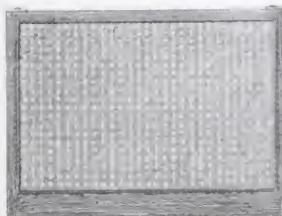


Fig. 7



Fig. 8
architectural, kitchen and bedroom windows and such similar purposes (Figs. 9 and 10).

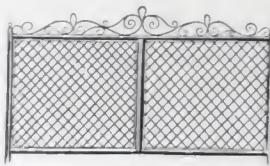


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

There is a modern tendency to reintroduce the old time Dwarf Venetian Blind where the Laths run vertically (Fig 11), the Frames being of Mahogany or other Hardwood, the Laths generally painted Green. The Laths can also be made of polished Hardwood when required. Sometimes these Blinds are made with the Laths fixed, but more frequently they are made in movable Laths, and it has been found better now, for some years, when this pattern is adopted to make the beads in Metal. They work better and wear better.

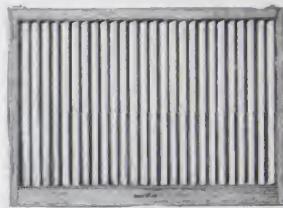


Fig. 11

CHAPTER VII

OUTSIDE SUN BLINDS

OUTSIDE Sun Blinds for Domestic Work are of many kinds, but the processes of manufacture with most of them are very similar. All the Blinds described in this article

are made with painted Deal Wooden Boxes into which the Blinds can be drawn for protection; most of them are fitted with a Hood Iron running up and down side Pole Irons. They

are mostly worked with Lines. There are eight standard pattern Blinds which cover nearly every condition, all of them made with Cloth. (Pinoleum Blinds are dealt with in a separate article.) These Blinds are illustrated alongside the varying remarks relating to the particular kind.

For the woodwork, or Boxes of these Blinds, the best Yellow Deal, carefully worked by skilled Joiners, is used, and painted with three coats of genuine White Lead and Linseed Oil. The colour can be varied according to the requirements. Occasionally the Boxes are required to be made with Hardwood, such as Oak, or sometimes to be creosoted to match existing woodwork, this can always be



done as may be required. The Irons are constructed from Best Iron or Mild Steel, as the circumstances may dictate, by skilled Smiths specialized in the work, and must be carefully designed, the object in view being to keep the Irons as light as is practicable under the circumstances, and yet made sufficiently stout to give lasting and satisfactory working conditions. The Cloths are generally constructed of fadeless Striped Linen, and sometimes of plain colours. The variety is infinite and varies from time to time, and is determined according to the requirements and selection. These illustrations are photographic ones of actual Blinds, and give an idea of the design of the Case. Every precaution must be exercised so

as not to make the Case unduly obtrusive, and to keep them as plain as possible in accordance with the taste of the day and the style of



architecture now in vogue. The design of the Case can be varied in accordance with any special requirements.

The Florentine Blind is a Hooded Blind with side Wings to the Cloth. It can only be used at the height at which it is made, and this height should be carefully designed and arranged, and varies according to the height at which it is fixed on the building, and to suit the particular conditions. It can be made to throw out from about 15 ins. up to say 5 ft., when it is required for

use for a door, either a Front Door or Doors leading into a garden. This, like most of the other Blinds

following, is generally constructed to fix in between the reveals of the window, the woodwork or Case being made of a suitable depth to fit into the reveals. Sometimes it is desirable to fix the Case on the face of the work, making it 3 ins. or 4 ins. wider each side than the window opening, and as much higher above the window as the circumstances may dictate. This Blind is made to reef up with Rings sewn on to the Cloth.

It has a

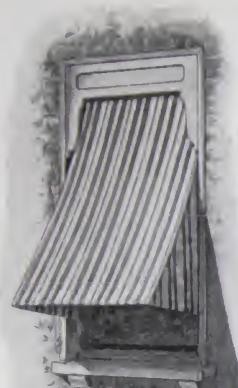
Pulley Head with Lines passing through Pulleys in this Head then through the Rings on the Cloth and fastened at the bottom to the Hood Iron.

The Oriental Blind is constructed on exactly the same principles but is for circular headed windows. The woodwork is built

up circular at the top with circular mouldings.

The Spanish Blind in most respects is constructed similarly to the Florentine Blind, excepting that the Cloth instead of being made to reef up, rolls round an English Spring Roller at the top. There are two sets of Lines, one to control the Hood and the other to determine the height of the Blind down the window. In every respect this is an excellent Blind, but it will readily be seen that it is a little

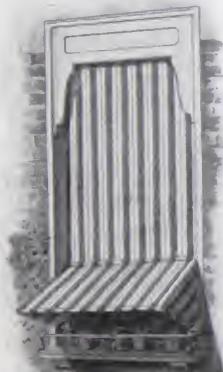
complicated in manufacture and use, and is more expensive. It is not so much used as the Florentine Blind.



FLORENTINE BLIND

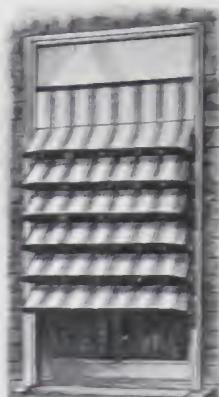


ORIENTAL BLIND



SPANISH BLIND

The Helioscene Blind is constructed of a number of small Hoods, the number varying according to the height of the window. This blind has the great advantage that it obstructs the view very little. The method of working is by two Lines which work on a large Wood Roller at the top, so that one Line only is handled to draw the Blind up and down.



HELIOSCENE BLIND

with an English Spring Roller for rolling up the Cloth, and it is so constructed that it can remain at about 18 ins. throw out from the window, 18 ins. up from the bottom, or gradually be let down until it comes close against the window, when it then forms a complete shade.



JANELLA BLIND

The Canaletti Blind is constructed with a Hood Iron and Pole Irons similar in type to the Florentine Blind, but it has no side Wings, and only a Box Head for the Case. Generally it is made to work



CANALETTI BLIND

The Janella Blind is very similar in appearance to the Canaletti Blind. It is made to work with a Self-Acting Spring Roller, but instead of having Hood and Pole Irons, it draws straight down the window with a centre Line, so that the Line can be fastened to Cleat Hooks at any desired position as may be found convenient, or

Fig. 1

if desired Tapes can be attached to the bottom Lath and the Blind tied to a Balcony Rail or anything

similar. When required Hook out Irons (Fig. 1) can be used with Sockets screwed on to the window frame.

The Finestra Blind is one which now has come to the front very prominently, and is particularly adapted and suited for modern Casement Windows. It is constructed with a Box Head. The Cloth winds round a Spring Roller

which is usually fitted with a Sheath End, and worked by one Line from the side or from the centre as may be desired. The continuous Hood Iron, which may be made to throw out according to the conditions and requirements



FINESTRA BLIND

from about 2 ft. to 4 ft. away from the window, is hinged at a fixed point attached to the window frame, or whatever work may surround it. This Blind, as will readily be appreciated, can be used at any height, the height being regulated by the amount of Cord and Cloth let out at a time. It is quite impracticable to have side Wings to this class of Blind.

The Sopra Blind is designed for doorways, either Entrance Doors, Casement Doors opening on the ground floor, and especially for large Blinds where it is desired to cover a series of windows, that is making a large Awning. It is not suited for ordinary windows, and is particularly unsuited for upper floors ; generally it should only be used on the Ground Floor. It is constructed with a Spring Roller encased in a Box with a front Rail which draws out with the Cloth of the Blind ; it has a pair of Hinged Throw out Irons which are usually fastened to the wall. This Blind is generally worked with a Long Arm Pole to draw out and push it



SOPRA BLIND

back ; but it is occasionally, constructed to work with a Line at the side instead of the Long Arm Pole.

It is not infrequently found to be desirable, especially with modern architecture, to fix Sopra Blinds in comparatively low positions, perhaps not more than 8 ft. or 9 ft. from the

ground, and yet give about 6 ft. of headway to pass under, and at the same time provide 6 ft. or 7 ft. or even more throw out. When such conditions occur, Tidmarsh's specially jointed Self-Elevating Arms can generally be adopted. (Fig. 2)



Fig. 2

There are occasions when it is very desirable to arrange Sopra Blinds with very long distance throw out in proportion to the height the Blind is fixed

from the ground, and where ordinary Self-Elevating throw out Iron Arms cannot be arranged to throw out far enough. In London and other places there are many instances where these Blinds are fitted, they may probably be better known by the British Public as a Continental Model that will be quite familiar to travellers on the Continent, as being used to cover large areas over open air Cafés, etc. These Arms are usually worked with an arrangement of Trellis Irons. (Fig. 3) The compilers of this Book are quite familiar with Blinds working on this method of which there are a good many variations in exact design, according to the conditions to be met, and are pleased to consult and advise as to the best methods. Very large areas as to width, by using a special Strained Rod for the Roller and these Trellis Irons, can be covered with single Blinds. Such arrangements are obviously very expensive, and generally require very substantial work to which to erect them. The Firm are always pleased



DOOR SOPRA BLIND

to discuss and arrange such Blinds as may be required from time to time.

Sopra Blinds, like some of the others, have no Side Wings, but where necessary a separate Loose Side Wing can be fitted to either side. Sopra Blinds are almost invariably fixed on the face of the work. (Fig. 4)

It is frequently suggested that Outside Blinds should work from the inside of the room without opening the window. Sometimes this can be done by passing the Line

through the window frame, and having a series of Pulleys, etc.; this method should not be adopted when it is possible to obviate it, as it necessarily creates friction, and adds to the cost, with inferior results. Whenever possible, it is always much better to arrange to open the window to work the Blind.

The foregoing describes most of the Blinds in ordinary use for domestic architecture, but there are frequently circumstances arising which necessitate special construction, and the Authors

are always pleased to give every consideration to any special designs that are required from time to time.



Fig. 3

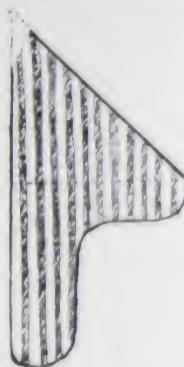


Fig. 4

CHAPTER VIII

PINOLEUM BLINDS

THESE Blinds have of late years become very popular, and need no description. Generally the thread bands of all makes match the woodwork, and are unfadeable. In

most patterns, the bands are woven so that wide thread bands occur every few inches, but in the cheaper patterns this is not so. It is generally accepted that

the best method of working Pinoleum Blinds for most purposes, is to make them to reef up with a Pulley Head, similar to a Venetian or Florentine Sun Blind, the Rings being inserted in



Fig. 1

passing through these Rings (Fig. 2). The edges should be bound with fadeless web to match the material, and the Blinds fitted with a grooved bottom stick, in which groove the material is inserted and fixed. These Blinds can also be made to roll up on their own bottom Lath instead of being made to reef up. Occasionally this is the best method, but not often. It is necessary to remember that Pinoleum is designed, arranged and woven to reef up, and it is generally the best method of working it. Usually, according to the methods of manufacture, it does not roll very satisfactorily.

We generally deprecate working Pinoleum Blinds on Sheath End Wood Rollers. Occasionally that can be so arranged, and there are circumstances under which we advise it, but it is very unusual. If these Blinds are to be made to roll up, ordinarily it is best to use a Self-Acting Spring Roller, working with a centre Line through a Pulley, and these Spring



Fig. 2

Rollers should be used as large a diameter as the circumstances will permit, so as to enable the material to roll freely and properly. For descriptions of these Rollers see Chapter V, page 26.

Sometimes these Pinoleum Blinds are made to fix in the reveals of a window (Fig. 3), or occasionally simply fitted on a



Fig. 3

Pulley Head on the face of the work, which Pulley Head can be protected by a covering board at the top only, but it is generally better wherever it is possible to do so, to have them fitted up into a Box Head similar to the annexed engraving (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

They can then be let down flat against the window, and if necessary Hook out with Irons, Sockets being supplied so that these Irons can be fitted on to the framework of the window (Fig. 5). When these Blinds are thus fitted, it is generally better to use Spring Rollers to work them rather than to reef up.

Another method to fit up Pinoleum Blinds is as the Canaletti Blind (Fig. 6) as described in our article on Outside



Fig. 5

Sun Blinds (Chapter VII), these Blinds being made with Hood Irons fitted with Swivel Rings and Pole Irons, with Best English Steel Barrel Spring Rollers and Pulley Heads.

We do not usually recommend making Finestra Blinds made



Fig. 6

from Pinoleum. Generally we consider it better to make them from Cloth. The windows for which Finestra Blinds are suited, are usually modern casement windows, and when Pinoleum is used for this class of Blind, it generally breaks away very quickly.

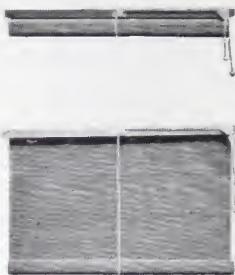
Pinoleum is not in any way suited or adapted for Sopra

Blinds, and it is a mistake to attempt to make this class of Blind from Pinoleum. The material itself is not, and cannot be made strong enough for the strain. Also the angle at which the Cloth of a Sopra Blind lies in relation to the sun, defeats the idea of a Pinoleum Blind, consequently the sun streams through. Pinoleum, to be effective, must always hang quite, or nearly, vertically to the window, or other positions such as Verandahs, to which it is fitted.

There is a cheaper grade of Pinoleum, sold largely by Store Houses, the edges of which are not bound, and the top

Lath, about 1 in. square, is fitted with a rolled-Brass Pulley arrangement, and worked with a centre Line only, or sometimes for wider Blinds, two Lines. These

Blinds are quite satisfactory for temporary purposes, and where it is desired to keep the cost down ; but they are quite a poor class quality article.



CHAPTER IX

THE FURNISHING OF VERANDAHS AND BALCONIES

In the Architecture of to-day the Verandah and the Balcony hold a dominant position. In the West End and more important Houses in the London area, the Balcony forms one of

the first features, whilst in the outer suburbs of all large cities, there is hardly any house of any importance that has not a Verandah or Loggia

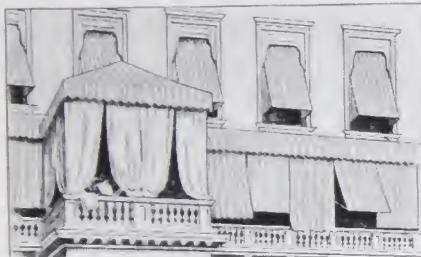
from which the sun and cold wind requires shielding ; and in Country Mansions there are frequently more than one such position where Blinds are required.

Further, most modern Hospitals, whether for ordinary medical or surgical Patients or for chest complaints and even for mental cases, open air Balconies and Verandahs are an essential part of the equipment.

Nearly every such Verandah, Balcony or Loggia must have Blinds to protect the occupants from Sun or Storms and extremes of weather.

In such a work as this it is quite impossible to generalize as to the kind of Blind best suited for the purpose, but the Firm are always prepared to offer every assistance to the Designer of any such Works, either by advice on the proposed plans, or by a personal interview or correspondence. The varieties of Blinds for the purpose are numerous, each of them will be found described under its particular chapter. The various kinds can be adapted to suit the varying conditions, and it will be apparent that the conditions vary too much to enter into much detail in this short article.

For vertical openings, Venetian Blinds (see Chapter II, page 16) are required at times, and are very excellent, more especially so in the Country. They can be shaded to any



angle to suit the position of the sun, they afford the most free ventilation and hardly obscure the view at all, if rightly used. Occasionally Venetian Blinds for such purposes are made with Laths 3 ins. wide and thicker than the usual gauge, but for all ordinary sizes the usual model is quite satisfactory.

Roller Blinds for such purposes vary greatly. There is the simple Sheath End Roller, made of wood, or of Tinned Steel Plates for large sizes, these can be made of large diameters up to 4 ins. or even 5 ins. for long lengths and of special strength when needed. There are also Spring Rollers, either Self-Acting, Cap and Rack Action, or Sheath End Action. Blinds of this type sometime require protecting Boxes, and at others there is sufficient protection afforded by the roof of the structure. The Cloths may be made from all classes of material, strong Linen unfadeable Striped Ticks are most usual, and there are various plain Linen or heavy Cotton Ducks and Canvases, some of them being waterproof. The selection is very varied.

Blinds of this type are usually made to fall down vertically

and can, if required, be arranged to hook out with Irons, either hinged or in Sockets with an eye in the bottom stick to keep them standing off at the bottom, two or three sets of Sockets can be ar-



ranged at varying heights

Further there is the popular Pinoleum Blind (see Chapter VIII, page 39) which is well adapted for this purpose, and fully dealt with in the article on that class of Blinds. Another method of treating the front of a Verandah is to fit Finestra Sun Blinds, these Blinds will be found fully described on page 35 under Outside Sun Blinds. This is a very excellent model in many cases.

In instances where expense is not a very serious consideration, Wood Lath Blinds (see page 45) either model "A" or "B" are frequently ideal. They keep off the sun, let in all the necessary air, afford very free vision and have many advantages. For shelters for open air treatment of Tuberculosis and other ailments, they are probably the very best possible method to adopt.

The Roofs of Balconies and Verandahs, when made of glass, frequently require Blinds, and in a very large number of instances it is difficult to improve on Chain Lath Blinds (see Chapter XII for details) as if it were a Conservatory; when a greater protection still is required, or when there is no glass, Spring Roller Blinds in Boxes fixed to the wall and with Heavy Striped Linen or plain Canvas Cloth to draw down to a front rail with Lines and Pulleys, are the best; but when there is no roof, it is necessary to construct a skeleton roof on which these Blinds shall work and rest. Occasionally inside Blinds made with Best English Spring Rollers and an ordinary inside Holland Cloth, of which there is so large an assortment of colours, are best. These Spring Blinds can be fixed at top to draw down, or at bottom to draw up the roof, and are almost



always made to work resting on Copper Wires strained from the top to bottom, and to pull with one or two Lines as the width may determine, passing through Pulleys to guide the Lines to any desired position. To repeat, Balconies and Verandahs vary so much in all their features and details that it is nearly always necessary for the Blind Manufacturer to see the plans or obtain details of the structure and to know the object desired, so as to arrange Blinds to suit the requirements which can nearly always be met.

CHAPTER X

WOOD LATH SHUTTER BLINDS

NEARLY everyone travels on the European Continent and consequently has used, and is more or less familiar with the opening and closing Wood Lath Shutter Blinds that are so frequently fitted in the best Hotels and Residences in such places as Switzerland, the South of France, Italy, Belgium, and other parts—known in France as Volets Mécaniques. They are a Sun Blind and Shutter combined, are excellent for windows in exposed positions, they give perfect ventilation, and if desired, the Blinds can be completely closed, keeping off the cold or strong sunlight.



Fig. 1

When these Blinds are being planned for new Houses, a space of about 12 ins. square should be left at the head of the window in which to place the Blind, it can then be rolled

up quite out of sight, and in most parts of the Continent where they are used, they are so arranged and treated as part of the Building (Fig. 2). Where they are to be fitted to old houses, sometimes it is possible to cut away the work above the windows so as to allow the Blind to be fitted, and at others the window itself can be cut away and reduced in height whilst occasionally it is arranged to fit these Shutter Blinds in Cases outside the window fixed on the face of the work, the Case being fixed above the window (Fig. 3). In any, and all such matters, the Architect would

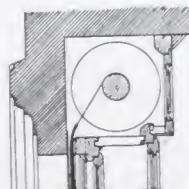


Fig. 2

be well advised to consult with the practical Blind Maker, who has had a large experience in making such Blinds, as to the best arrangements to be adopted, whether for new or for old Buildings.

There are two

methods of working them. One with an endless Cord and one with a Tape about 1 in. wide; which is to be preferred depends largely upon the local conditions. They are mostly worked from the inside of the room and are generally constructed with a Spring Roller to balance the weight.

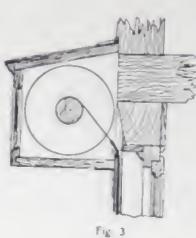


Fig. 3

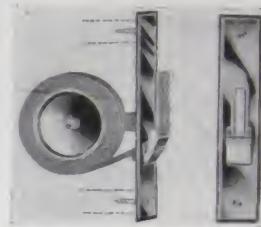
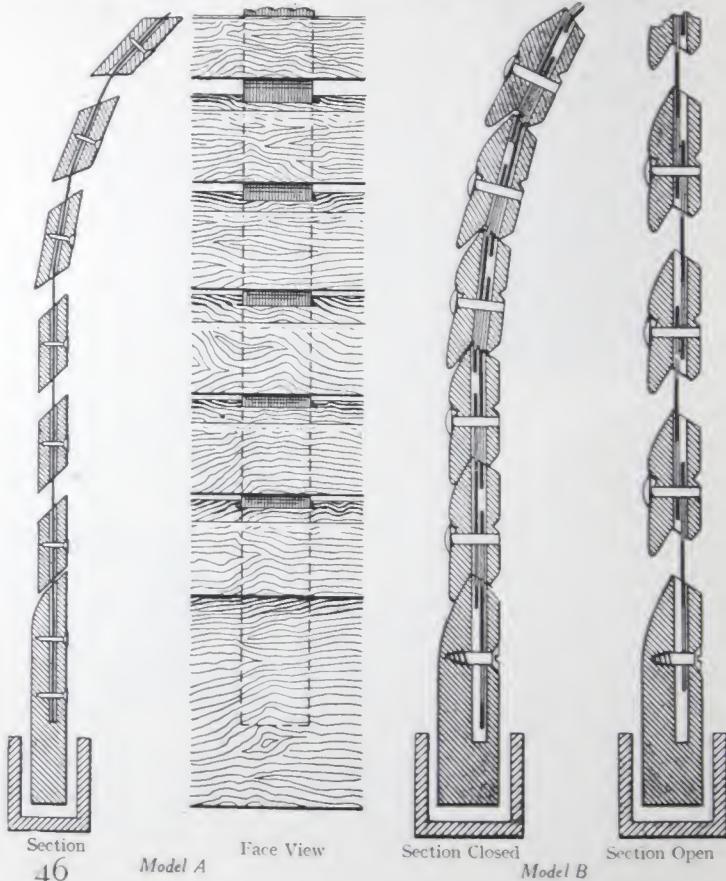


Fig. 4



These Blinds are almost always made to run in Iron Channels fitted to the reveals of the windows, or it may sometimes be necessary to fit the Channels to special runners fixed on the face of the work where it is not practicable to fix in the reveals.

There are two usual models. Model "A" Fixed Laths, the Wooden Laths cut obliquely and fastened together with Flexible Bronze Ribbons as indicated in the annexed engraving, having a sloping space of about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. between each Lath to allow a certain amount of light and free ventilation.

Model "B" Movable drop Laths, the Laths about $\frac{1}{4}$ in to $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick by about $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. broad.

When let down these form a close Shutter against the window as indicated in the engraving, but as the Laths are joined together with metal-slotted flexible plates, they can, by a very simple action (merely the pulling of a cord) be adjusted so as to remain apart about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. as indicated in the right-hand engraving, thus being interspaced all through the Blind to admit light and air.

When desired, the side runners can be so arranged and adjusted as to throw the Blind out from the bottom, similar

to the illustrations,
by means of hinged
arms, throwing out
(as is more usual)
only the lower
part, from about
half-way up the
window, or, if
desired, the whole
Blind can be made
to slope out from
the top of the
window.

Ordinarily these
Blinds are made
from one of the

usual soft woods, Yellow Deal being the one mostly used, but they can be made in Teak, Oak or other Hardwood, and are generally so made for export, especially to Tropical Countries for which they are so specially adapted.

These excellent storm and Sun Blinds can confidently be

recommended to Architects, especially for Country Mansions, all High Class Buildings and exposed situations. It is only in comparatively recent years that they have been introduced to use in England, and the Compilers of this Book believe they are the pioneers of this particular style of Blind, feeling confident that for some years they were, and believe they are still, the only firm in the British Empire who are able to offer these Blinds as being their own make and essentially British all through in manufacture, the design being improved on the Continental models, combining the best methods of the French, Swiss, German, Spanish and other models.

CHAPTER XI

JALOUSIE SHUTTER BLINDS

THIS form of Blind is exceedingly popular in many parts of the European Continent. It is well known in Switzerland, many parts of France, Italy and other Countries ; so much is it used that visitors to these and other parts will observe that even the most out of the way small Chalets and cottages, and

even sheds for cattle, etc., are often fitted with them, but made in a very rough and primitive manner ; whilst in many of the best Hotels and Residences they are of a very high quality, fitted up in the most elaborate style with very expensive fittings, occasionally being made of metal throughout to keep them small and neat in appearance. In England they are frequently fitted to seaside and country Houses, generally of the more expensive class. The British Market demands high

class well-constructed Shutters made from the best materials, and it is not customary to attempt a cheap form of make for these Blinds. They are mostly made to hang on hinges either to a solid wood frame fitted into the reveals of the windows, or the frame is discarded and the hinges caulked into the wall with a form of Lewis Bolt.

There is usually a pair of Shutters to each window, Laths about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick of a suitable width, being grooved into a solid wood frame morticed together with a substantial middle rail. Occasionally, owing to the width of the window,

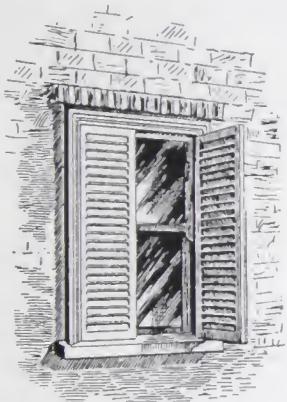


Fig. 1

or to other circumstances, these Shutters have to be made to

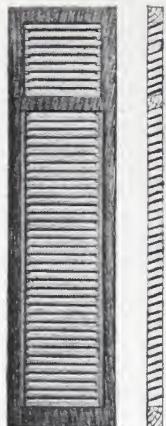


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

fold into two or even three parts in order to cover a wide window or to fold into a small space (Fig. 3).

Sometimes it is found preferable to construct these Shutters in such

a manner that they roll back on Iron Runners, generally with wheels at the top, hanging on to the Runners, which Runners are generally attached to the wall with caulking Irons. These running Shutters

are generally a more expensive method than the folding hinged ones.

The methods of fastening the Shutters together when they are closed, also of fastening them partly open, necessarily vary greatly according to circumstances. Generally a system of Bolts is used so that either the two Shutters are interlocked with one long Bolt fastening into eyes top and bottom, or shorter Bolts fastening to the window sills, are supplied, and they are usually arranged so that by means of Cabin Hooks they can be fastened back at right angles to the

window or only part of the way (Fig. 5); when not required

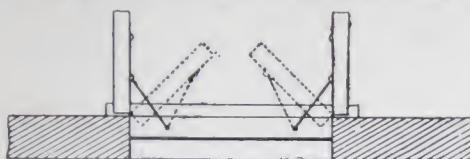


Fig. 5

in use at all, they are fastened back against the wall with a Spring Hook or a Turn Buckle (Figs. 6 and 7).



Fig. 6

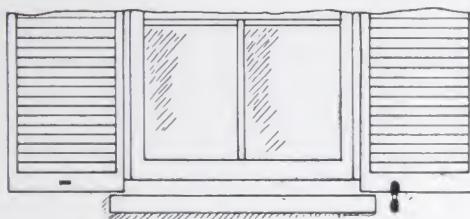


Fig. 7

A method that is adopted under some circumstances is to arrange that one section of the Shutter shall open (Figs. 8 and

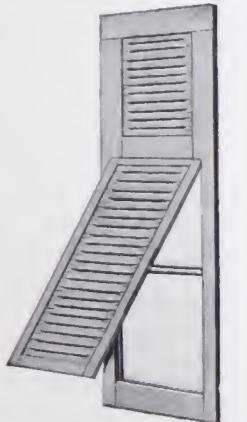


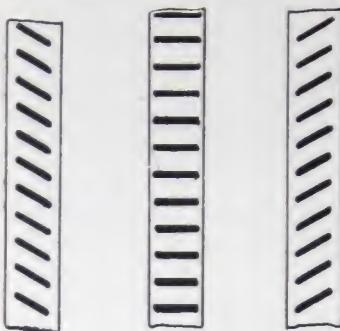
Fig. 8



Fig. 9

9). Another device that is seen frequently, more especially in Switzerland, but very rarely in Britain, is for the Laths

to be made to swing on pivots so that the angle of them can be altered to any intermediate position required (Figs. 10, 11, and 12).



Figs. 10, 11, 12

generally Yellow Deal, Metal Work, etc. When parts of them are made to open, as also when the Laths are made to turn, the expense is considerably increased.

Occasionally a demand arises for these Shutters made from Hardwood, such as Teak, etc., for Countries liable to White Ant ravages, and also under other conditions; when wanted this can always be done at relatively increased values.

They are a most excellent form of Blind, and where expense is no great consideration, they are a great acquisition to a house, and well worth the expense. These, and the Wood Lath Shutter Blinds (see Chapter X, page 45), somewhat rival one another in their advantages and uses. Each has its own points and each is equally good in its way. Jalousies have in their favour that they can be more readily fitted and adapted to old houses without altering the structure, as generally may be necessary for Wood Lath Shutter Blinds.

CHAPTER XII

GREENHOUSE CHAIN LATH BLINDS

FOR almost all horticultural work the Wood Chain Lath Blind has superseded all other kinds of Blinds. The design originally coming from France, is now so well established in the British Isles as to need no recommendation and very little description.



It is in every way an economical production, being inexpensive in the first place, and, for practical purposes, everlasting wear, repainting being all that is likely to be required for many years when Tidmarsh's Patent Unbreakable Chain is used. Besides this they have proved themselves to be efficient and well suited for all the various classes of Horticulture, from the elaborate and highest class Orchid growing to the humble Cold Frame.

The Chain is made from hard Copper or hot galvanized Steel, according to the quality required.

To keep off the sun is the main feature of any Blind, but although, in October, Cloth Blinds inside or out must be

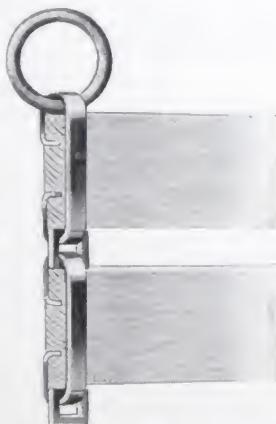


Fig. 1

taken away, it is not so with these Wood Chain Lath Blinds. They are all-the-year-round friends, and are almost as useful in the winter as the summer. Whilst in the summer it is desired to keep off the sun heat, in the winter it is necessary to conserve all the heat that can be. These Blinds, let down on a cold night, will assist in this matter in a way that will surprise everyone who has not had the experience ; whilst for covering frames, pits, and such structures, they are invaluable, and will save many a vexatious loss of plants when the early sharp frosts occur.

One great advantage of Wood Chain Lath Blinds is that no Boxes or protection is required, as the wet does not harm them. They can be fixed below the ventilating lights, if desired, or the lights can be covered separately, or have the necessary spaces cut away for the ventilators to open.

With Wood Chain Lath Blinds, as in all other things, there are varying qualities on the market. To secure the best it is essential that the Laths are sufficiently substantial ; $\frac{7}{8}$ in. wide by a full $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick is the ideal article, also the space between the Laths should not be more than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Some makers give a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. space, which is too wide for effective shade, although it naturally keeps down the cost, as there are two Laths less in each yard run, which is cutting down the cost at the expense of quality ; cheapness at the sacrifice of efficiency. Rigidity is another feature that is very important. The two features that have been difficulties in these Blinds in the past are, first, the Blinds have not been sufficiently rigid, and, second, the links with which the



Chains are fastened together, always being liable to break, are overcome by Tidmarsh's Patented special Link (Fig. 2) made from stampings out of the solid metal ; they thus become unbreakable,

Fig. 2 and are improved in shape to make the Blinds quite rigid. Selected Wood best suited for the purpose, to combine strength with wearing qualities, and free from knots, should be used.

The whole must be thoroughly well hand-painted with best White Lead and Oil, Green being the usual colour. There is an occasional demand for these Blinds treated with brown Preservative, and when so treated, the Laths are generally left unplanned. Although there is a small saving in this method, it must always be kept in mind that the

water coming from Laths to which wood-preserved has been applied cannot be used for garden purposes. The use of such an article is very undesirable, but can be supplied if required. When a Brown colour is desired, it is better to use paint.

The Pulleys for these Blinds vary with requirements. In most instances, unless there is a wall or other work to which the Pulleys can be attached above the Blinds, specially galvanized Pulleys mounted on galvanized iron stems about 7 ins. long (Fig. 3), should be used so as to lift the Pulleys above the roll



Fig. 3

of the Blind ; the Pulley itself being arranged to swing to any angle required, automatically. Narrow Blinds are worked with a Single Line and one Pulley ; wide ones with two Lines, including one double and one single Pulley

A special, soft yet strong and well-wearing Line that does not harden when it becomes wet (which is a most important feature in working these Blinds), should be used, and a galvanized Cleat Hook supplied for each Blind.

The question frequently arises as to how wide individual Blinds of this type should be. There is much to be said in favour of the system of a number of narrow Blinds for each roof, divided according to the number of main rafters. It is necessary to remember that wherever two Blinds adjoin one another and roll up against one another, a small dividing board of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, should be screwed to the main rafter to prevent the two Blinds coming in contact with one another when working, or they will get out of order. It is only very rarely that Blinds of this type should be made more than about 14 ft. to 15 ft. wide, but it is usually better to submit a rough set-out of each roof to be covered, showing where the main rafters come, and leave it to the manufacturer to suggest the number of Blinds and widths to be supplied.

Occasionally Orchid Growers require these Blinds to roll horizontally along the roofs, using no Lines or Pulleys, and rolled in the simplest way on a stick by hand.

Where additional light is required for some of the more difficult Orchid Houses, such as Cattleya and Laelia Houses,

a special size ring may be required. This can be supplied, and, occasionally, has been found to be valuable.

Another advantage of these Blinds is that they can be made to work above the roof, leaving about 9 ins. of air space, thus giving the desirable air space between the glass

and the Blind which is often required for successful gardening. When this is wanted, the method adopted is to form a framework of T Iron to run parallel with the roof rafters (Fig. 4), being attached to and

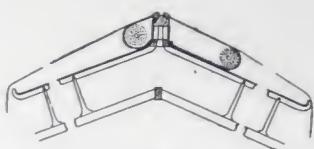


Fig. 4

resting above the rafters by iron supports or standards, thus forming a framework on which the Blinds can roll up and down, so that perfect freedom is given for the ventilating lights to open. This method generally about doubles the cost of the Blinds ; or the Blinds can be guided over the ventilating lights by shorter Iron Guides.

Where there are only small ventilating lights, frequently it can be arranged to cut out a loose piece of the Chain Lath Blind to cover the ventilator which will roll up and work with the main Blind, and, by means of a simple contrivance, allow the ventilator to open without disturbing the main Blind. The ventilator, when it is open, raises the loose piece only, the main portion of the Blind remaining flat on the roof.

These Blinds can occasionally be used for Hospital Balconies, Consumptive Shelters, and other such purposes. They give protection, keep off the sun and a great deal of bad weather, at the same time letting in all light and air, and yet themselves are not damaged by exposure. Occasionally also they are used for ordinary Private House windows, and can be adapted for other such purposes.

Although these Chain Lath Blinds are the ones which have now become predominant for nearly all Greenhouse work, there are occasions where different Blinds are desirable.

Where the circumstances permit and the slope of the roof allows, Blinds can sometimes be constructed with a heavy round Roller which is generally made 4 ins. diameter fixed at the top, the Roller rolling down the roof ; Lines attached at the top, pass through Pulleys, round under the Roller, thus the pulling of these Cords rolls the Cloth round the Roller up the roof. It is customary to provide an open

fronted Box for such Blinds (Fig. 5) (being doubled when both sides of a roof are to be covered, fixed to the ridge piece with Iron Brackets), the Cloth being tacked to a fillet at the top; but this kind of Blind is not much used now, being superseded by the Chain Lath Blind.

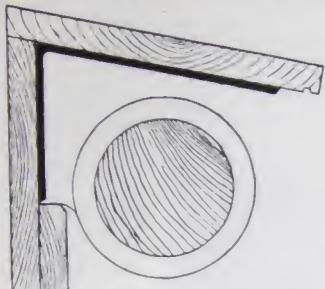


Fig. 5

The Cloth used for this kind of Blind can be either a Cotton Ducks, Green proofed

striped Linen, or Linen or plain, or when preferred the open Texture Scryms either Linen or Cotton Green proofed or self-coloured can be used.

A further kind of Blind occasionally used for Conservatory Roofs is a Spring Roller Blind in a Box (Fig. 6) fixed on the roof to draw down the roof with one or more Lines passing through Pulleys at the Gutter; the

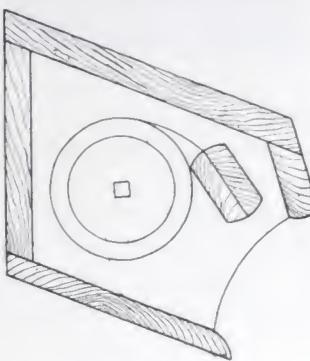


Fig. 6

Spring Roller being Self-Acting, winds up the Cloth as soon as the Lines are released from the Cleats.

The various angle parts of roofs of Greenhouses and Conservatories, are almost invariably dealt with for all kinds of roof Blinds with Hook up pieces shaped to the angles and allowed to remain up all the summer season, being only taken down for the sunless winter weather.

The requirements for the front or ends of a Conservatory vary greatly. Very occasionally these same Chain Lath Blinds may be used vertically, but mostly the best method to adopt is to have Pinoleum Blinds on English Self-Acting Spring Rollers, with a simple Box covering, a separate Blind being provided for each light, to work with a centre Line and fasten to hooks (Fig. 7).

Inside Blinds are sometimes required for Conservatories. It is, however, necessary to remember that such Blinds are always liable to become entangled with the plants that may be allowed to run over the roof lights, and also are likely to

suffer from the damp atmosphere that generally exists in a glass house for plant culture.



Fig. 7

draw up, each Blind resting on two Copper Wires strained to eyes top and bottom, and worked with one or more Lines to each Blind according to the width, the Lines passing through Pulleys to any desired position. The particular Cloth for such Blinds is a matter for selection both as to texture and colour; the variety to choose from being very large (see article on Spring Roller Blinds, Chapters I & V)

CHAPTER XIII

HOW TO FURNISH A SHOP WITH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE BLINDS

A LARGE number of shops are now fitted with Blinds inside instead of Shutters ; also in modern Shop Fitting it is very customary to use a great deal of circular work, circular corners to deep windows, and other similar arrangements ; Roller Blinds are required for the windows, as far as possible to exclude the sunlight and be able to close the Shop. With regard to the Rollers actually used, it is generally customary to supply a Sheath End Roller, that is to say there is a Brass Sheath End on the roller which the Cord winds round. For wide Blinds it is customary to have a Metal Barrel made with Tinned Steel Plates. For the sake of uniformity the narrow Blinds are frequently made in the same manner, or can be made from round wood. For higher class work it is customary to use a Sheath End Spring Roller. Both these articles will be seen more fully described in the article on Roller Blinds (Chapter I). The advantage of the Sheath End Spring Roller is, when the windows are closely dressed if there is any slight obstruction that might prevent the free and easy working of the Sheath End Single Cord Roller, the pulling of the Line forces down the Blind, and the Spring in the Roller rolls it up when the Line is released. The Lines can be trailed to any position over Pulleys.

Sometimes considerable difficulty occurs as to the question of shutting out the light at the angles. With modern Shop Fitting, the sash bars are frequently so exceedingly narrow that it is practically impossible, under these conditions, to shut out all light. As far as possible it is customary to keep the Sheath End away from the angles, that is to say at the right- or left-hand where there is more room to spare ; frequently by fixing one Blind slightly above another, and sometimes by making one Blind to roll from the back of the Roller, and the other to roll from the front of the Roller,

these difficulties can be overcome, to some extent ; but it is a matter that has to be dealt with each job individually, either by visiting the job, or advising on the plans.

For the circular corners, the best way, usually, is to make a Blind of a soft texture to match in colour, as far as may be

possible, the material used for the Roller Blinds. These Blinds are made to the sweep of the window, and are made to reef up, the bottom being finished with an Iron Rod bent to the shape of the window.

For the door, one of our Patent Spring Rollers is generally the best article to have (see page 12).

Very frequently in the rear part of a Shop, there are Skylights. They generally require to be fitted with Spring Roller Blinds worked horizontally, and running on guide wires, the Lines being trailed by Pulleys to any required point.

The material mostly used for all these inside Blinds is Glazed Holland in various colours as may be required. Many of these Hollands are made up to 9 ft. wide, so that the large majority of windows can be fitted up without any join in the material ; if necessary the Cloth can be used the reverse way. For very large



windows it is sometimes necessary to join the Cloth.

In arranging for the Outside Blinds for a Shop there are several considerations. Frequently it can be arranged that the Blind fixes on the Cornice in a Wooden Box (Fig. 1) specially constructed for the purpose, or room is left in the entablature so that the Blind can be fixed as part of the Shop Front (Fig. 2), and when a Blind has to fix in the entablature it is usually necessary to provide space of about 6 ins. to 8 ins. square, according to the conditions and

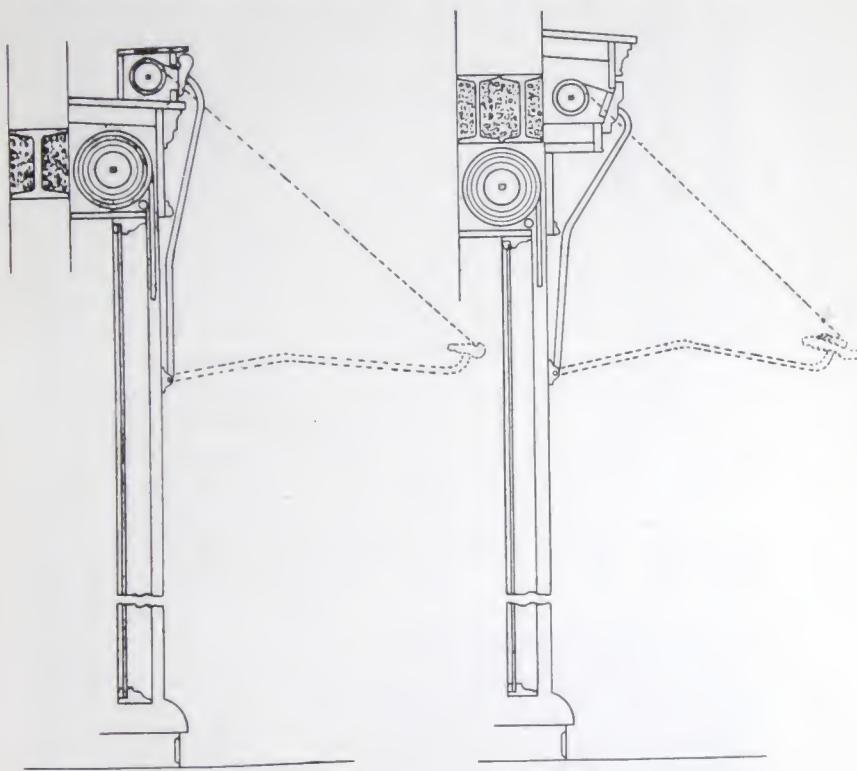


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

size of the Blind. When the Blind is fixed in the entablature it is customary for part of the moulding of that to form the front rail of the Blind (Fig. 2). Blinds can be made of quite ordinary construction up to about 20 ft. wide. When the width exceeds about 20 ft. it is generally desirable to divide the Blind into two or more portions. Spring Rollers can be made to large diameters, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. or up to 5 ins. when exceeding 20 ft., however these very long Spring

Rollers are not to be recommended, they are expensive and are liable to accidents, but occasionally it is the best method of dealing with very wide openings.

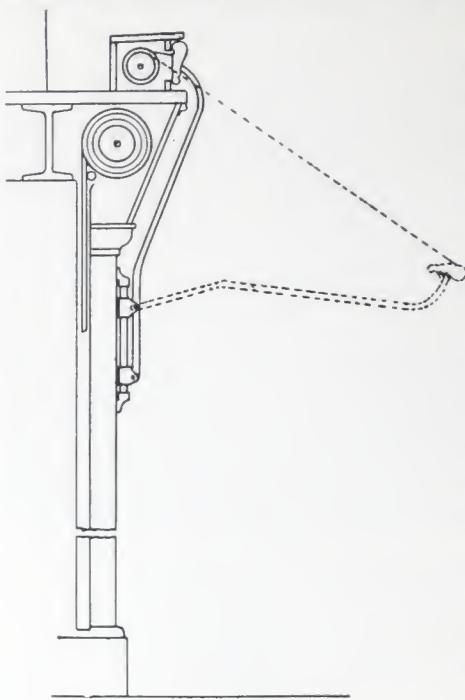


Fig. 3

the curb ; it is very rarely that they are required to be more than 8 ft. long. When the shop is low in height, these Irons are made to slide (Fig. 3). When there is sufficient height to give 7 ft. or 7 ft. 6 in. headway, they are made to hinge, both being indicated by the annexed engravings. Sometimes in wide shops where it is necessary to use more than one pair of Irons, that is to say where there is a continuous length of two or three Blinds, and nothing to fix the Irons to, it is customary to run an Iron Bar from the top of the Shop to the bottom (Fig. 4), sometimes fixed into the pavement at the bottom and sometimes fixed to the Wood of the Shop Front ; where Sliding Irons are necessary,

There is a large selection of Cloths, so that any requirements may be met ; it is generally found desirable to write the name or some other advertisement on the Cloth. Sometimes highly decorative designs are used for this purpose.

The Iron Arms are made to suit the width of the pathway, and in accordance with the height of the shop. They should generally be kept about 6 ins. less than the width of the pathway so as not to overhang

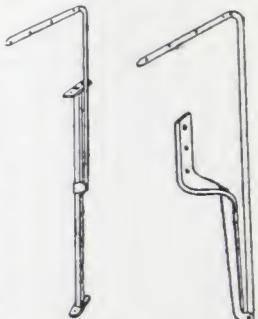


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

the side Irons slide on this Bar. Where a centre Iron or Irons are required and there is no fixing for them, and the shop is of sufficient height so that they are not required to slide, an arrangement can be made by which the Iron hangs from the entablature, this is termed a "Hanging Iron" (Fig. 5) with a Hinge at the end of the hanging Bar, which Bar in itself has to be very strong, and has to be very firmly fixed. It is generally necessary to bolt it to the Iron girder or Wood bressemmer, which is frequently behind the facia.

In modern Shop Fitting the ordinary Irons, even when they have an ornamental twist in them, frequently are not considered sufficiently decorative, and in that case Bronze or Gun Metal Shoes (Fig. 6) or Hinges can be provided to the Irons; also the Irons can be decorated about the middle by a Bronze or Gun Metal Sleeve (Fig. 7), which can be

Fig. 6 kept polished; and in still higher class work, *Fig. 7* it is quite customary to coat the Irons with a heavy coating of Bronze or polished Gun Metal, so that they can be all kept bright. Where the whole front is Metal, the Front Rail of the Blind should also be made of drawn Bronze or Gun Metal.

There are occasions when it is very desirable to arrange Shop Blinds with very long distance throw out in proportion to the height the Blind is fixed from the ground, and where ordinary Self-Elevating throw out Iron Arms cannot be arranged to throw out far enough. In London and other places there are many instances when these Blinds are fitted, they may probably be better known by the British Public as a Continental Model that will be quite familiar to travellers on the Continent, being used to cover

large areas over open air Cafés, etc. These Arms are usually worked with an arrangement of Trellis Irons (Fig. 8). The Compilers of this Book are quite familiar with and prepared to erect Blinds working on this method, of which there are



Fig. 8

a good many variations in exact design, according to the conditions to be met, and to consult and advise as to the best method. Very large areas as to width, by using a special Strained Rod for the Roller and these Trellis Irons, can be covered with Single Blinds. Such arrangements are obviously very expensive, and generally require very substantial work to which to erect them. The Firm are always pleased to discuss such Blinds as may be required from time to time.

When the sun comes at the side, it is customary to fix

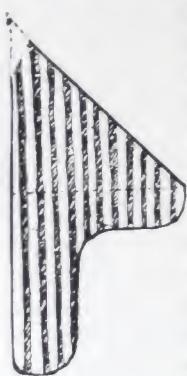


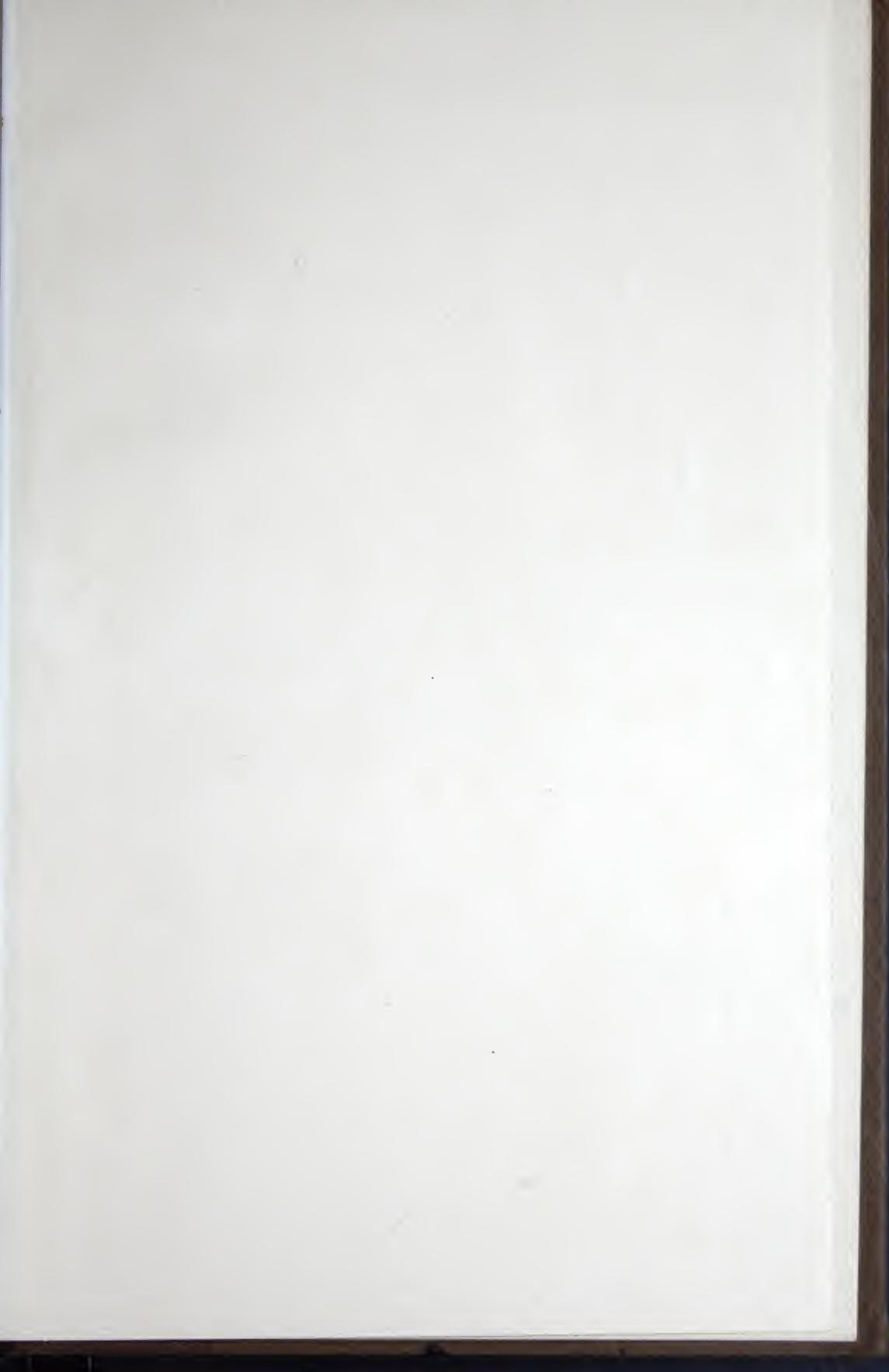
Fig. 9

up a side Angle Blind or Jib, similar to the annexed illustration. This can be supplied either one Blind to fix at either end, or one Blind to fix at the sunny end only (Fig. 9).

Circular corners almost invariably have to be dealt with by a Hook up Blind, hooked to the woodwork at the top, and hooked across from one Blind to another at the bottom. This is sometimes dealt with in a comparatively cheap method by hooking it up without any Rods or with a straight Rod at bottom, and at other times with a circular Iron Rod.

Where there is a space in between two or three Blinds, the most usual method of dealing with this is, a Hook up Blind, or where it can be arranged, more particularly where two Blinds draw down on one long Lath, a small Blind about 2 ft. 6 in. wide on a separate Spring Roller fixed usually at the back and above the other Rollers, and drawn out with the larger Blind so as to cover the gap ; occasionally a separate small Box is fixed on the top and the Blind drawn out with a Long Arm after the other Blinds are in position.

When Shops are closed up and there are no Shutters and no Inside Blinds, Hook up Flush Blinds of a Striped or plain heavy Linen Cloth are usually supplied to cover up the windows at night. The method of fixing top and bottom, varies very much according to requirements, and conditions. It is difficult to specify any regular method.







14, 15